



Advisory Announcement
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**REGULATORY UPDATES FOR NORTHERN SOUTHEAST INSIDE (NSEI)
SUBDISTRICT AND SOUTHERN SOUTHEAST INSIDE (SSEI) SUBDISTRICT
SABLEFISH**

Regulations adopted at the 2022 Southeast Board of Fisheries meeting for the Northern Southeast Inside (NSEI) Subdistrict and Southern Southeast Inside (SSEI) Subdistrict sablefish fisheries will become effective **September 25, 2022** (<https://aws.state.ak.us/OnlinePublicNotices/Notices/View.aspx?id=207942>) and are summarized as follows:

Legal Gear

- Sablefish may be taken in the directed NSEI sablefish fishery by longline **and pot gear** under a CFEC limited entry C61A permit [5 AAC 28.130 (a) and 5 AAC 28.130 (f)].
- Pots must have at least **two circular escape rings, with a minimum inside diameter of three and three-fourths inches**, installed on opposing vertical or sloping walls of the pot [5 AAC 28.130 (f)].

Permit holders are reminded that groundfish pot gear requires individual tunnel eye openings with perimeters 36 inches or less and a sidewall containing an escapement opening equal to or exceeding 18 inches in length that must be laced, sewn, or secured together by a single length of untreated, 100-percent cotton twine, no larger than 30 thread of which may be knotted at each end only and must be parallel to and within six inches of the bottom of the pot [5 AAC 39.145 (1)]. King and Tanner crab pots as described in 5 AAC 34.050 (2) and 5 AAC 35.050 (2) may not be used to take groundfish.

Bycatch Allowances for the NSEI and SSEI Sablefish Fisheries

- CFEC permit holders fishing for groundfish or halibut in NSEI and SSEI **must retain, weigh, and report all rockfish taken including thornyhead rockfish** [5 AAC 28.171 (a)].
- The allowable bycatch percentage by species or species group is the percent of bycatch on an NSEI or SSEI sablefish permit based on the combined round weight of sablefish and bycatch on board the vessel [5 AAC 28.130 (d) (3) and 5 AAC 28.171 (a)].

Species	Longline Gear	Pot Gear
All rockfish, including thornyheads	15% in aggregate, of which up to 1% may be DSR	
Lingcod	0%	0%
Pacific cod	20%	20%
Spiny dogfish	35%	20%
Other groundfish	20%	20%

Permit holders are reminded that the demersal shelf rockfish (DSR) assemblage includes yelloweye, quillback, canary, copper, tiger, China, and rosethorn rockfish [5 AAC 39.975 (34)]. All rockfish retained in excess of allowable bycatch limits shall be reported as bycatch overage on an ADF&G fish ticket. All proceeds from the sale of excess rockfish bycatch shall be surrendered to the state. Excess rockfish retained due to full retention requirements may be retained for personal use; however, the pounds must be documented as overage on the fish ticket.

A CFEC permit holder fishing for groundfish must retain all Pacific cod when the directed fishery for Pacific cod is open and up to the maximum retainable bycatch amount (20%) of Pacific cod when a directed fishery for Pacific cod is closed [5 AAC 28.070 (e)]. Pacific cod taken in excess of the bycatch limit in areas open to directed fishing for Pacific cod may be landed on a CFEC miscellaneous saltwater finfish permit designated for the gear that was used.

Advisory Announcement web site: <http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=cfnews.main>.

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